

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 11, 14-16 and 18-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 14, 15 and 18-22 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

It is noted with appreciation that the Office Action has indicated that claims 4, 5, 9, 13, 14 and 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 and to include all the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims. It is noted that claim 4 is included in the list of "objected to" (allowable) claims at item 7 of the Office Action Summary, but omitted from the "objected to" list in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. Since claim 4 was not rejected, it is assumed that the omission of claim 4 from the list of paragraph 5 was inadvertent and that claim 4 is also allowable. The following amendments concerning these claims have been made.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 4 and intervening claims 2 and 3. Dependent claim 5 has been amended to depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 and dependent claim 5 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 9 and intervening claim 8. Original dependent claim 7 depends from independent claim 6. Therefore, independent claim 6 and dependent claim 7 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 13 and intervening claim 12. Original dependent claim 11 depends from independent claim 10. Dependent claim 14 has been amended to

depend from independent claim 10. Therefore, independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11 and 14 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 17, there being no intervening claim. Dependent claim 16 depends from independent claim 15. Dependent claims 18-20 have been amended to depend from independent claim 15. Therefore, independent claim 15 and dependent claims 16 and 18-20 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-12, 15, 16, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,987,598 to Eriksson, hereafter Eriksson.

This rejection is moot as to claims 2, 3, 8 and 12, which have been canceled.

This rejection is obviated by the amendment to claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15 and 16, which are in condition for allowance as discussed above.

This rejection is obviated by the amendment to independent claims 21 and 22. Independent claim 21 is a method claim that correlates with apparatus claim 1. Independent claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2-4 so as to recite the same limitations that are in independent claim 1. Therefore, amended independent claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 22 is a method claim that correlates with apparatus claim 6. Independent claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 8 and 9 so as to recite the same limitations that are in amended independent claim 6. Therefore, amended independent claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Eriksson is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn, that claims 1, 5-7, 10, 11, 14-16 and 18-22 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If this amendment is deemed to not place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,

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